



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

June 29, 2009

To: Isiah Leggett, County Executive

From: Valerie Ervin, Councilmember – District 5

Subject: Request that Dale Drive CIP Projects be accelerated to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity and decrease vehicular speeds.

Over the past two years, I have been working with the residents who live in the communities surrounding Dale Drive to identify methods of decreasing speeding and improving pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity along Dale Drive between Wayne and Georgia Avenue.

In October 2007, I requested that Chief Manger conduct a study of vehicular speeds on Dale Drive and consider the implementation of speed cameras. The study revealed that 49.3 percent of vehicles on Dale Drive exceeded the speed limit by more than 11 miles per hour. The Department of Police investigated the installation of permanent speed cameras; however, due to the Dale Drive's design, the only effective devices were mobile speed cameras.

In addition to speed cameras, staff from your department, including transit services, traffic engineering, and pedestrian safety, met with residents who live in the communities surrounding Dale Drive and implemented improvements to bus stops and added crosswalks, pedestrian refuge islands, and curb extensions in an effort to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity and reduce speeding.

These efforts are much appreciated and are a great start; however, I believe that Dale Drive needs a more permanent long-term solution. I am writing to make two requests:

- 1) That the Dale Drive Sidewalk Project (MD97 to MD29) listed under Other Candidate Studies to Start in FY11-14 (No. 509337) be selected for facility planning in FY 2011.
- 2) That the portion of Dale Drive between Colesville Road and Wayne Avenue is added to the Intersection and Spot Improvements CIP, #207017, so that safety and access for pedestrians and bicyclists can be improved.

Dale Drive is an especially dangerous stretch of roadway commonly traversed by walkers, joggers and cyclists. I believe that we need to promote greener transportation and that these two projects will improve pedestrian and bicycle traffic, access to public transportation, and encourage people to leave their cars at home when making the short trip to Sligo Creek Park or downtown Silver Spring.

As the Councilmember representing District 5, a neighborhood resident, and the Council's lead representative for pedestrian safety, I feel that there is an urgent need for these projects to proceed as soon as possible.

I look forward to your response and to continue working with you and your staff on this issue.

Sincerely,



Valerie Ervin

c: Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director, Department of Transportation
Chief Thomas Manger, Chief of Police, Department of Police
Bee Ditzler, President, Woodside Park Civic Association
Phil Curtin, President, Woodside Forest Civic Association
Mark Gabriele, President, Seven-Oaks Evanswood Civic Association
Alan Bowser, President, Park Hills Civic Association
Darian Unger, Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Captain John Damskey, Director, Traffic Division, Department of Police
Sergeant Tom Harmon, 3rd District Traffic, Department of Police
Bruce Johnston, Chief, Division of Capital Development, Department of Transportation
Emil Wolanin, Chief, Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations, Department of Transportation
Jeff Dunckel, Pedestrian Safety Coordinator, Department of Transportation
Glenn Orlin, Deputy Staff Director, Montgomery County Council